

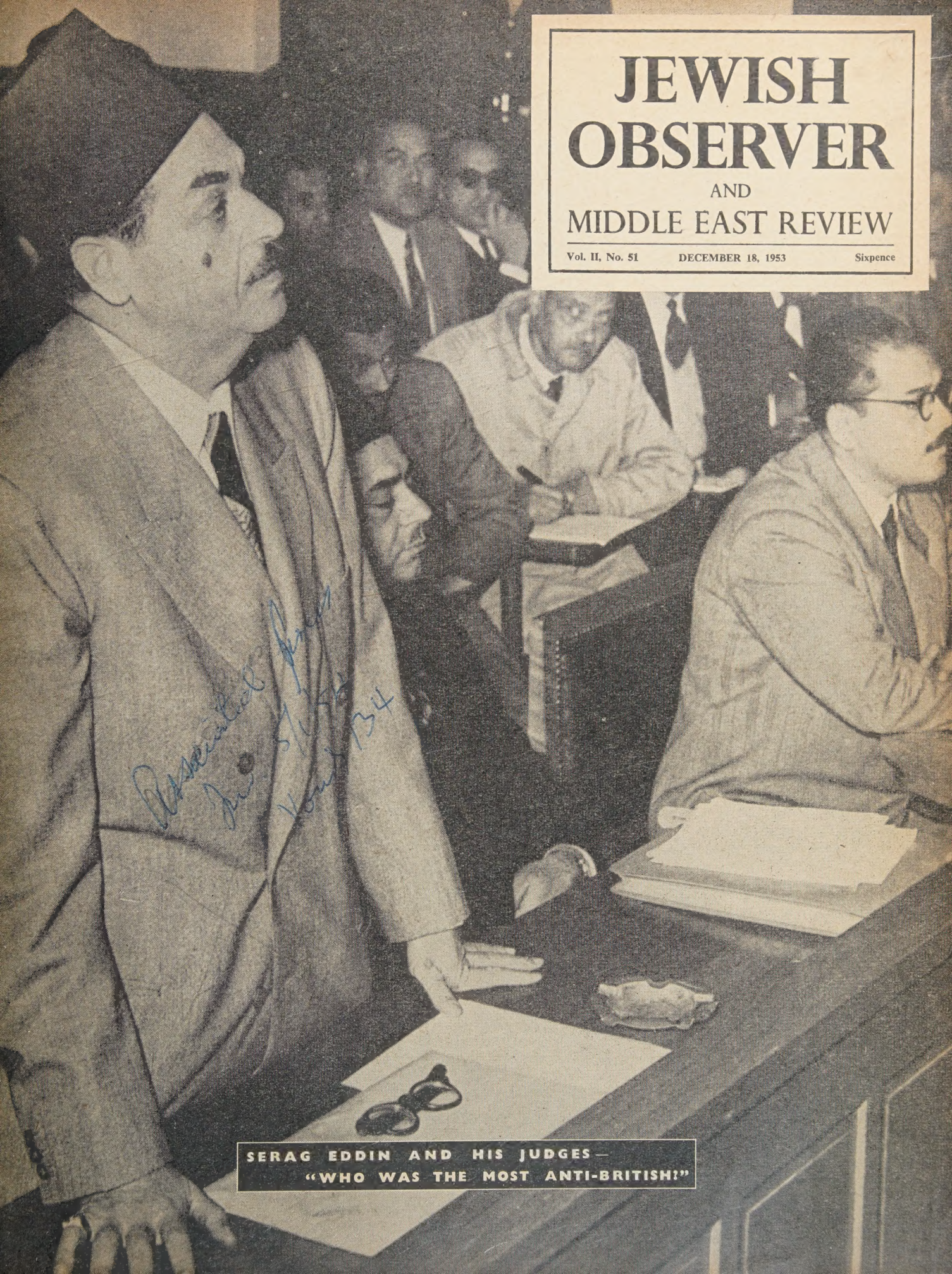
JEWISH OBSERVER

AND
MIDDLE EAST REVIEW

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SERAG EDDIN AND HIS JUDGES —
"WHO WAS THE MOST ANTI-BRITISH?"

JEWISH OBSERVER AND MIDDLE EAST REVIEW

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- Cover Picture shows Fuad Serag Eddin, the most powerful opponent of the Nguib régime, Wafdist Minister of the Interior and of Finance from 1950-52, facing the Revolutionary Court in Cairo where he is on trial on charges of corruption and misuse of power. —Planet Photo.

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THE WEEK

SHARETT ON EGYPT'S ASPIRATIONS

ISRAEL'S ACTING PREMIER MOSHE SHARETT outlined in Jerusalem Israel's attitude towards an Anglo-Egyptian settlement; "we do not set our face against fulfilment of Egypt's national aspirations," he said. (See page 5)

PRESIDENT VOROSHILOV received Israel's new envoy in Moscow and welcomed the "political importance" of the event; the Soviet Union has placed orders for 20,000 tons of Israel citrus fruit.

IN JERUSALEM, negotiations for the renewal of the coalition government continued; "gaps" were "narrowed" but talks went on—and on, running into fresh difficulties; no new government is expected till next week.

THE NETUREI KARTA leader, Rabbi Amram Blau, and 11 Yeshiva students were arrested by the police in Jerusalem, on Wednesday, when they tried to prevent a comb-out of the area for ultra-orthodox youth who had failed to register for national service.

IN CAIRO, the Board of Guidance of the Moslem Brotherhood decided to expel the pro-Nguib group led by El Asmawi who refused to "recant" his errors. Nasser intervened repeatedly to avert this action, but the "Board" voted the expulsion by 97 votes to 23.

A WEST GERMAN BANKING MISSION arrived in Cairo this week to discuss the financing of the £180 million project for the Aswan Nile Dam; meanwhile, the West German authorities cancelled their proposed German Industries Fair in Cairo and Damascus. This was due, a spokesman said, to major political factors.

THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT has decided to dispense with the services of a British Major of the Arab Legion and retire another for failure to aid Quibya village when it was attacked.

THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS terminated its two-day European Executive conference in London; reaffirmed Jewish indemnity rights in East Germany; protested against the "judicial persecution" of Hungarian and Rumanian leaders; criticised Allied clemency towards war-criminals.

THE UNITED JEWISH APPEAL IN NEW YORK asked for an "irreducible minimum of \$119,921,150."



Shinwell—No scuttling.

BEVAN AND SHINWELL LABOUR POLICY ON EGYPT AND ISRAEL

On Monday morning Labour Party headquarters at Transport House were slightly dazed. Bevan had declared at the weekend that he was supporting official Party policy when he advocated the withdrawal of British troops from Egypt. At the same time, Shinwell, speaking in Glasgow, had asserted that Labour policy was opposed to "scuttling" from Egypt and stood by the Treaty which did not expire until 1956. Both Bevan and Shinwell sit on the opposition front bench.

Transport House was not prepared to adjudicate at short notice. There has been no formal Labour Party declaration on the subject. The only statement in any way connected with the argument was a clause in the Resolution submitted by the Poale Zion to the last Labour Party Conference and which was accepted by the National Executive of the Labour Party at the beginning of this month.

This clause stated "that in any arrangements with Egypt, the wider interests of the region as a whole—including the security and welfare of Israel—must be taken into full account."

Politically inadequate: The trouble

with this statement, it was pointed out, was that it was so general that it covered both Bevan and Shinwell; it was clearly politically inadequate as a Party declaration of policy on all the issues involved in the Egyptian talks.

To remedy this, the National Executive met on Tuesday. No agreement was reached after a three hours discussion and a further meeting of the Executive was held on Wednesday morning. It agreed to make no formal declaration on policy in Egypt. It was left to Mr. Attlee to elaborate the Party's position in this week's Foreign Affairs debate.

CONSERVATIVE REBELS EGYPTIANS "INFURIATED"

The cause of the sudden open outbreak of the Conservative revolt against the continuation of the Suez talks was a hard report that the central clause of the proposed new agreement with Egypt was an undertaking by the United Kingdom to arm a sufficient number of Egyptians to enable Egypt to take the place of British land, sea and air forces in Egypt. It was this last straw, the prospect of Great Britain with U.S. support equipping some 40,000 Egyptians, or more, that broke the back of Tory Party discipline and led to the tabling of the motion by the 35 Conservatives who object to further negotiations with Egypt.

A British rebuff: Meanwhile Egyptian newspapers announced last Friday that "drastic action" would be taken against Britain soon, after the American "failure to mediate" in the Suez Canal dispute at the Bermuda Conference. All the papers gave banner headlines to reports of the "American failure." Britain's rebuff to Egypt in refusing to "budge an inch" from her stand in the Canal dispute has "infuriated" Egyptian revolution leaders, a spokesman at Revolutionary Council headquarters said later in the day.

The Egyptian Ambassador to Washington, Dr. Ahmed Hussein, had earlier reported by telephone to Colonel Nasser on his meeting with Dulles, the American Secretary of State, and with Henry Byroade, the Assistant Secretary of State for the Near East, and how they had described their fruitless efforts to solve the Canal Zone problem at Bermuda.

Churchill "unmoved": Diplomatic officials stated in Washington over the week-end that Dulles told the Egyptian Ambassador that he and President Eisenhower were unable to persuade Churchill to make any concession whatever over Egypt's demands for British troops to leave the Canal Zone.



Churchill—no budging.

BERMUDA AND EGYPT PRESSURE—OR JUST A WEE SQUEEZE?

Just how much pressure did President Eisenhower bring to bear on the Prime Minister when they discussed Egypt at Bermuda? (see report in previous column). The Egyptian press "splashed" it last weekend. Then came the *Jewish Telegraphic Agency* with a new version. The J.T.A. report said that the State Department pledged its support in the United Nations for the Arab League's claims on Israel. It also promised arms



Baghdadi—No British.

and equipment for Egypt—if Egypt guaranteed not to attack Israel.

Enquiries in Whitehall and Washington provided no confirmation of these reports of American "pressure" on Churchill. They did, however, produce the following facts.

- ¶ Dulles produced a memorandum on Egypt at the meeting of the three Foreign Ministers;
- ¶ Churchill and Eisenhower discussed Egypt for barely ten minutes; these were largely occupied by Churchill's elaboration of the British position;
- ¶ Both agreed that it would be impracticable to include into the new Treaty written guarantees to Israel; Israel would have to receive assurances independent of, and apart from, the Egyptian Treaty.

Dulles supports Israel peace move: Meanwhile, the State Department has stated that it is backing Israel's attempt to negotiate with the Jordan Kingdom. A State Department official stated on Tuesday that the Department hopes that an Israel conference with Jordan "would bring about positive results." "We would contribute to this end as best we can," said V. Durward Sandifer, Assistant Secretary of State for U.N. Affairs in Washington. "We earnestly hope that tensions will be reduced and both Israel and Jordan will demonstrate readiness to establish a political atmosphere which would make possible progress towards a lasting settlement," he added.

Damascus objects: The Syrian Nationalist Party paper *Albina* reported on Friday that the U.S. had pledged to guarantee Jordan's present borders provided that she made peace with Israel. *Albina* said Jordan would not be obliged to establish diplomatic and economic relations with Israel under the American proposal. The other Arab states would not have to end their state of war with Israel.

In return the United States promised to increase financial and economic aid to Jordan and give her a larger share of the Jordan river's water under the State Department's \$121 million scheme.

Amman's move: On Tuesday following U.S. representations in Amman the Jordan Government asked the Arab League's Political Committee to examine "at the earliest possible date" the United Nations' appeal to Jordan to enter into direct negotiations with Israel.

The request followed an earlier Jordan Cabinet meeting which laid down the Jordan attitude.

REVOLUTIONARY TRIBUNAL

WHO HATES BRITAIN MOST?

The trial in Cairo of Fuad Serag Eddin, who was Minister of the Interior and Finance Minister in the Wafd government of Nahas Pasha and the former Secretary-General of the party, became a competition between the judge, prosecution witnesses and defence as to which of them could boast of being most anti-British.

Serag Eddin who is accused of corruption, abuse of power, supporting ex-King Farouk's "tyranny," and of "rigging" the Alexandria cotton market between 1950 and 1952, swung the trial away from these charges by a sensational claim that he had personally planned to blow up a British ship, in collusion with a member of Neguib's Liberation Officers, when he was still Egypt's Minister of Interior. He had helped to transport a mine for the purpose to El Arish by rail, he said.

Baghdadi—"For History's Sake": He was interrupted by the court president, Wing-Commander Abdel Latif Baghdadi, who insisted on disclosing "the true facts for history's sake."

"We, the Revolution Officers, were the ones who took this mine on our own. We transported it to the Canal Zone, not by rail, but by an air force plane," he declaimed. "After the abrogation of the 1936 Anglo-Egyptian Treaty in October, 1951, we wanted to fight the British, but the Wafdist Government hindered us.

"We stole ammunition from army-depots and risked court-martial. We wanted to resign our commissions to go to the Canal Zone, but the Wafdist Government prevented us. The Wafdist abrogation of the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty was mere propaganda business to remain in power."

When Serag Eddin said that the Boulok Nizzam Police Auxiliary lost 40 men in a clash with the British at Ismailia on January 25, 1952. Baghdadi retorted: "Is that the way to fight?"

Arrested on British Orders?: Serag Eddin's defence counsel, Abdel Fattah Hassan, former Minister for Social Affairs, alleged that he and Serag Eddin were arrested and put under detention at their country homes outside Cairo by the Hilaly Government at the request of the British Embassy; but Hilaly, Egypt's last Premier before the military coup, denied as a prosecution witness that the arrest was made at the request of the British Embassy.

Hilaly said that when Churchill was in Cairo in 1943, the British Prime Minister told ex-King Farouk to be patient with the Wafd Government of Nahas Pasha until the allies had thrown the Germans out of Africa and then "do what you please with the Wafd."

"Sir Cecil Campbell said—": Hilaly also alleged that the late Sir Cecil Campbell, President of the British community in Cairo and "an old friend of mine," told him the British would overthrow the Hilaly Government unless he co-operated with them.

Throughout his career he "opposed the British and never yielded to them," Hilaly claimed."

"Naked" Liberation Troops: Major General Saleh Harb, President of the Young Men's Moslem Association and former Commander of the Liberation Battalions, blamed the Wafd Government for the lack of training of patriots who were eager to fight the British in the Canal Zone. He resigned his post as Commander of the Liberation battalions when he realised the Wafd Government was not supporting the organisation, he said.

"When I inspected the Liberation squads in the Delta I found some naked and hungry, without arms and utterly unorganised," he said.



King Feisal with his advisers—Workers' strikes follow oil strikes in Southern Iraq.

CONFERENCE

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS LONDON MEETING

A two-day conference in London of the World Jewish Congress European Executive this week reaffirmed Jewish indemnification claims against East Germany and strongly protested against the Note, signed by East German Vice-Premier Ulbricht and addressed to the Bonn Government, Britain, France and the United States, calling for the revocation of West Germany's Reparations agreement with Israel.

German Rearmament and War Criminals: The dangers attending German rearmament; a decision to make representations against the clemency being extended by the Allies to Nazi war-criminals; possible diplomatic measures to be adopted over the trials and sentences passed upon former W.J.C. leaders in Rumania, and the indictment of Hungarian Jewish leaders for former Zionist activities (see p. 6) were also discussed after reports were submitted by A. L. Easterman, London Political Director, and Dr. Bienenfeld, head of the Legal Department.

The conference adopted reports on plans for the promotion of Jewish culture, and on the development and co-ordination of Congress publicity.

IRAQ: OIL SPECTRE

The growing discontent of Arab workers is stalking through the Arabian oilfields. The impact of sudden oil fortunes is beginning to be partnered by social unrest. Last month it was Saudi Arabia with its first strike of 15,000 oil workers. Last week the movement spread across the border into Iraq's newest oilfield, near Basra.

Two thousand workers of the British-owned Basra Petroleum Company's oilfield stopped work and demanded higher wages. This has been refused by the company, which says its workers "at present receive higher wages than any other workers in the country." Soon after the strike began, it was announced that the European staff were manning the plant, and that oil production would not be held up.

This led to clashes on Tuesday in which one person died and 15 were injured. Troops of the First Division of the Iraqi Army are on guard in the Basra area, where all was reported quiet on Wednesday.

On Tuesday night the Iraqi Government declared martial law in the strike region.

ISRAEL

ACTING PREMIER SHARETT

AN OUTLINE OF FUTURE POLICY

Addressing his first press conference as Acting Prime Minister, Moshe Sharett said that two supreme tasks faced Israel, 1, the fullest possible development and mobilisation of the country's available, and potential, resources so as to enable the speediest possible attainment of a sound economy and full economic independence; and, 2, the economic, social and spiritual integration of the hundreds of thousands of newcomers.

There was also the major problem of Israel's relations with the neighbouring Arab States. On this, he could only say that the conclusion of permanent peace depended on the Arabs alone.

"We, for our part, are always ready for it and I can only express the hope that counsels of peace will, sooner or later, prevail against the hatred and prejudice abounding in the ruling circles of the neighbouring Arab lands."

It is important for the Arab world to realise that Israel could hold out alone, if necessary, he warned.

Guarantees from Britain Sought: Referring to the Anglo-Egyptian Suez Canal problem, Mr. Sharett said Israel sought guarantees from Britain to protect Israel's interests.

"We told the British Government that while we in no way set our face against the fulfilment of Egypt's national aspirations, we feel bound to protect our own national interests in the impending change-over," he said.

Mr. Sharett explained that Israel's interests were to safeguard the balance of military strength between Israel and Egypt, which was paramount as long as peace did not exist, and in the free passage of ships of all countries through the Suez Canal.

An Interruption—Border Incident: During the press conference Mr. Sharett was handed a report of a fresh border incident which he read aloud. It said that an armed band from Jordan on Thursday night shot and seriously wounded a Jewish woman near the Jordan border.

This was most serious, he said. The border situation was not showing a marked improvement, but "two can play at that game."

Questioned on the possibility of a resumption of the Arab war against

Israel, Mr. Sharett said "it would be criminal folly on the part of the Arabs to attempt it."

He also said that Israel welcomed the resumption of normal relations with the Soviet Union, but it was too early to say what concrete relationship would result.

ELIASHIV MEETS SOVIET PRESIDENT

A small informal ceremony on Monday morning in the impressive Presidential room of the wintry Kremlin officially renewed diplomatic relations with Russia when the Israel Minister, Dr. Eliashiv, presented his credentials to President Voroshilov.

For fifteen minutes, the two men engaged in conversation where diplomatic platitudes bore slender relation to the re-awakened prospects of cordial Soviet-Israel friendship that had existed in the early days of the State, at whose birth the Soviet Union had assisted, and to whom she had been the first to give *de jure* recognition.

Voroshilov spoke of the "positive political importance" of the resumption of Soviet-Israel relations that he was convinced would "develop to the mutual interests of both countries."

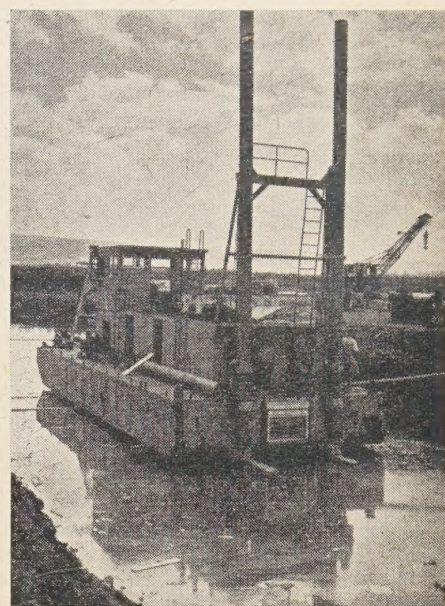
Trade, as usual, followed the diplomats. On Tuesday, after the Israel Minister's audience with the Soviet President, the Israel ship *s.s. Nachshon* was due at Odessa with a cargo of 1,300 tons of oranges, first consignment of 20,000 tons that the Soviet Union has agreed to buy from Israel; and an additional agreement for 500-600 tons of Israel bananas is now in the process of negotiation.

HULEH'S TWO IDLE MILES

The diplomatic atmosphere in the U.N. still lingers desultorily about Huleh, with the debate dragging on from inconclusion to inconclusion. Dr. Malik, the Lebanese delegate, has taken 90 minutes to repeat general Arab charges against Israel.

Britain has made it known that she is in favour of turning over the whole Syrian-Israel dispute to General Bennike, Chief-of-Staff to the U.N. Armistice Commission.

The United States is pressing the advantages of the over-all Jordan River plan advanced by Eric Johnston, who visited the Middle East recently as Presi-



A dredger at work on Israel's Jordan canal scheme.

dent Eisenhower's envoy for special missions.

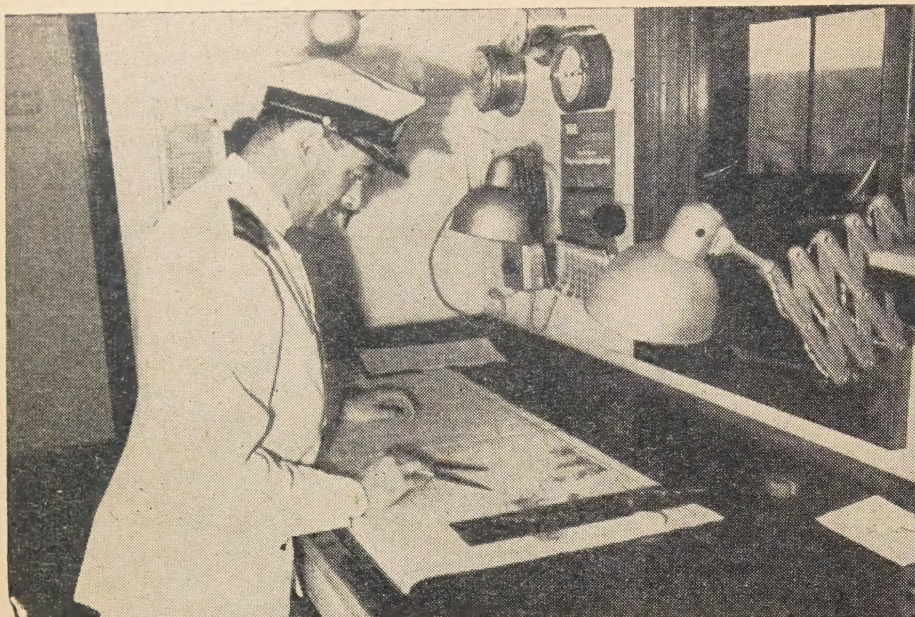
All Quiet on Jordan Front: In the meantime, a giant crane squatting in the Jordan river bed in the Galilee demilitarised zone is the only indication that a renewal of work on the river project is being contemplated there in the near future.

All is quiet in the zone. On the other side of the river, Syrian soldiers can be seen sauntering near the recently-erected pill-boxes which dominate the entire area, and only the occasional passing of an Israel patrol penetrates the quiet.

But nearby, beyond the boundaries of the demilitarised zone, work is in full swing on other parts of the 14-kilometre canal which is to divert the Jordan waters, for only a stretch of 2.7 kilometres of the canal runs through the demilitarised area, the only part under dispute at present.

The canal there, and the 12-metre long dam which at the moment stops the Jordan waters from entering the canal, have already been constructed, but at least three more weeks' of hard work are necessary in the demilitarised zone before that part of the project is completed.

Jordan River Electricity: The main aim of the project is to provide electrical power: it will enable a new power-station to be built at Tabha, near Lake Tiberias, which will largely take the place of the old plant at Naharayim, on



Captain E. Eczel, master of Zim's largest passenger liner, the s.s. Jerusalem, 15,000 tons.

the Yarmuk river which is now in Arab hands.

The plan aims to utilise the steep decline of the Jordan river by artificially creating a large difference in height between the Jordan waters and Lake Tiberias. Thus, whereas the Jordan loses 300 metres height between the starting-point of the project and Lake Tiberias, the new canal will have a slope of only 40 metres, leaving a difference in height of 260 metres between the two.

This difference will be utilised to create power; it is reckoned that 24,000 kilowatts per day will be generated by the new station. Surplus water will be diverted south-westwards to the Bet Natufa valley, which is to become the central reservoir of the entire water plan of Israel.

TRANSPORTATION

EL AL CELEBRATES FLIGHT ANNIVERSARY

The 50th anniversary of the original powered flight by Wilbur Wright was celebrated in Israel on Thursday. El Al Israel Airlines is holding an exhibition of "Fifty Years of Civil Aviation" showing in photos, drawings, diagrams and models, the development of aviation since the historic flight of the Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk, on December 17, 1903. Several of the exhibits had been contributed by American and British Airplane Manufacturers.

A special feature on the significance of the development of powered flight will

be made throughout the Israel broadcasting system during the last week of December.

The Israel Aero Club, in co-operation with several Ministries of the Israel Government and El Al Airlines and the Israel Air Force have formed a public committee for the arrangement of a series of celebrations and air shows in the main cities of Israel.

GERMAN REPARATION SHIPS

The Israel Government has given approval for the Zim Navigation Company to place orders for four ships with German shipyards under the Israel-German Reparations agreement.

Three of the ships have already been ordered. They are a "mixed" ship of approximately 10,000 tons gross, to carry 300 passengers and 7,000 tons of cargo, delivery date—July 1955; two ships, specially designed for the transportation of citrus fruit, deadweight 7,000 tons each, to carry 12 passengers each, in luxurious accommodation, delivery date—November 1954; and a third ship of the same type that has just been ordered.

Rapid Development: The Zim Navigation Company was founded in 1947. At that time the company owned only one ship, the s.s. *Kedmah*, a passenger boat which operated between Haifa and Marseilles. Many more ships were either bought by, or built for, the company since then and new lines opened. Today the company own 19 ships, with a tonnage of over 100,000.

Zim Lines' plans for the near future

include the construction of one or two more passenger ships and several more cargo ships, some of them to be built in the U.K.

LONDON

HUNGARIAN TRIALS CONDEMNED BY W.J.C.

"Deep distress and indignation that, on the very eve of a possible relaxation of international tension, the Hungarian Government has seen fit to renew a policy of judicial persecution against leaders of the Jewish community in Hungary" was expressed by the European Executive of the World Jewish Congress, which represents Jewish communities and organisations in nineteen countries of Europe, at a meeting in London.

"In the course of trials now in process in Budapest," the statement continues, "the so-called crime of conducting Zionist activities and of maintaining contact with Zionists abroad is being charged against the former leaders of the Budapest Jewish Community and of the Zionist movement in Hungary until its liquidation in 1949, Henrik Galos (former general secretary of the Zionist organisation of Budapest) and Abraham Kornitzer (formerly one of the leaders of the orthodox religious Hungarian Jews)."

The Case of Dr. Denes: A particularly brutal proceeding is the trial of Dr. Bela Denes, a lifelong cripple suffering from infantile paralysis. On the forced liquidation of the Zionist movement in Hungary in 1949, he was arrested and accused with other prominent Zionists of assisting Jewish emigration to Israel, and was sentenced to three years' imprisonment. Although this sentence expired in April 1952, Dr. Denes was kept in prison. He is now being retried on the charge of conducting Zionist activities before his first trial, when these activities were perfectly lawful.

Lawful, and in Good Faith: Henrik Galos was deported from Budapest in 1949 together with his family, and was arrested in the spring of this year on the same charges of conducting Zionist activities. Abraham Kornitzer, a devout and much respected religious Jewish leader in Hungary, was also arrested in the spring of this year.

The Zionist activities which the Hungarian Government now indicts as a criminal offence were, at the time when they were undertaken, lawful, and carried on openly and in good faith, the statement points out.

K N E S S E T

BUSINESS AS USUAL QUIET END OF AN EPOCH

From Our Knesset Correspondent

It is one of the characteristics of parliamentary life that dramatic moments often pass unnoticed. At the beginning of the session last week, Mr. Moshe Sharett rose and in a singularly undramatic tone announced that the Prime Minister had submitted his resignation to the President; thus, according to law, the Government as a whole had resigned, and the present Government would serve in a temporary capacity until such time as a new Government was formed. A further decision that the Prime Minister would seek leave of absence made Sharett himself the acting-Prime Minister of the temporary government. It was the end of an epoch, but no-one who sat there and listened to the procedural understatement would have believed it.

Then Mr. Sharett, this time as Foreign Secretary, rose and replied to the debate which had taken place the previous week, but as predicted, nothing was added to his opening speech. The debate therefore became involved in a conflict on minor points with the opposition and drew to a close in quite a different atmosphere to that in which it had opened.

Speaker Sticks To His Guns: An interesting controversy took place on procedure when the final vote was taken. The representative of the coalition party, Mr. Meir Argov, submitted a resolution which sought the Knesset's approval of the Foreign Minister's statement, but also its identification with the broadcast made by the Prime Minister on the Quibya incident. Dr. Bader of Herut rose angrily and said Mr. Argov could not have a resolution which based itself on something which had not been said in the House itself. The Minister of Justice, Mr. Pinhas Rosen, rose to oppose this view, and the House divided argumentatively.

The Speaker then took a bold decision and pronounced judgement against Mr. Argov's resolution, giving him these alternatives; either he must change it completely or include in his resolution a verbal reference to the Prime Minister's speech. Mr. Argov asked for a five-minute recess and chose, wisely I thought, the former course. On the part of the Speaker it was a good, and even courageous, decision, he stuck to his

guns, and his prestige was by no means impaired by this.

Lawyers Disagree on Criminal Code: Afterwards, something of an anti-climax, we went on to a continuation of a debate on the criminal code, and here the House was sharply divided into lawyers and non-lawyers. Mr. Shapiro, a former Attorney-General, spoke on the whole approvingly of the bill; whereas Mr. Sassoon, an able lawyer of Iraqi extraction thought it was a mistake to change the character of criminal law on the grounds that so many lawyers had become accustomed to the old form of law.



Former Attorney-General, Moshe Shapiro, approves new Criminal Code.

On the other hand, Mr. Tabori, a Labour member, and Mr. Lavie, a veteran farmer of Ein Harod, took a different view. They spoke against that part of the bill which decreased penalties, and were apprehensive that mitigations of punishment in a country in which there was a varied immigrant element might result in an increase in crime.

I sometimes think that this point of view is exaggerated. This is a small country with one or two rather sensational newspapers which tend to over-emphasise certain crimes, and laymen, without having comparative statistics, tend therefore to regard these crimes as peculiar to their own country. It is by no means certain, considering the many diverse people who entered the country in a short time, and the circumstances in which they came, that the situation is really as grave as some would make out. In any case, enlightened social workers do not believe that excessive punishment is necessarily a deterrent.

Backstage View of Government-Forming: With the corridors buzzing with rumours and counter-rumours on the formation of the new Government, interest in the daily work of the Knesset has inevitably flagged. On Monday of last week, for example, every now and then a whole party was "missing," having been summoned to the President for consultation, in accordance with the law, on the formation of the new Government.

Thus a number of bills in their second readings, which normally would have given rise to debate, passed off quietly, and even those who had amendments down in their names, allowed votes to be taken without discussion.

Can Legislation Deal With Social Problems?: The only thing that aroused some interest was a strange bill which was presented on the initiative of a private member, to make the manufacture of brushes the exclusive property of the blind. Mrs. Hanna Lamdan, of the small Independent Party of the Unity of Labour party, was the sponsor, and she introduced it with fine ministerial dignity. The bill however aroused some controversy and, as most of the women who sit in the Knesset are engaged in social work, they almost all had something to say.

Doubt was expressed as to whether a social problem of this kind could be dealt with by legislation, and the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Peretz Bernstein, joined in the discussion on this point. Mr. Genachowski of Ha-poel Hamizrachi rounded off the debate with a neat epigram to the effect that it was proper that the question of the blind should be dealt with on the Feast of Lights, and the Knesset, in generous mood, sent the bill to the Committee, although by no means enthusiastic as to its intention.

And so this rather quiet week closed in a mood of some lethargy. A topic like the remilitarisation of Germany, which normally provokes strong passions, was conducted in comparative tranquillity; and when Mr. Ben-Aharon of Mapam raised the question of an attack which had been made on a club belonging to his party, hinting that there were mysterious political forces behind it, the Minister of Police placated the Knesset with statistics showing that attacks upon clubs were not the exclusive affliction of any particular party. And upon that sober reflection, the members went home.

COMMENT

AFTER BEN-GURION

Mr. Sharett has come into a difficult inheritance. He has to take charge of Israel's unsolved problems at a time when, perhaps for the first time in Israel's five years, all thought of a peace settlement with her neighbours has to be set aside. In Whitehall and in Washington, in Cairo and in Amman, the conclusion has been reached that an Israel-Arab settlement at this stage is neither practicable nor possible. It is a view that is by no means new; but it is now held with greater emphasis than at any time since 1948.

Thus, the very first decision that Mr. Sharett has to take is a profoundly serious one: shall his Government now abandon the search for a settlement and concentrate instead on making the most of that difficult twilight existence that is neither peace nor war? We pointed to this possibility some weeks ago; in his recent Knesset speech, Mr. Sharett indicated that he could see no good coming from Israel's continued propositions for a settlement if they were rejected out of hand by the Arab States and unsupported by the Western Powers.



Since then we have moved a stage further towards this situation, without question the most important single issue among many others, and it is desirable that it should be clearly understood. The change of opinion does not spring from a change of inclination; it does not spring from the conviction—accepted at last—that the Arab leaders do not want a settlement. All this is not new. What is new is the growing deterioration of the over-all situation in the Middle-East: the renewed threat of conflict between Great Britain and Egypt; the public differences between the British and the American view; and, most decisively, the delay of the Neguib regime to master its internal economic and political difficulties.

For behind Ben-Gurion's policy of a *rapprochement* with Neguib's Egypt there was something more substantial than political opportunism. Ben-Gurion had come to understand that no peace was possible with the Jordan Kingdom—or with the Lebanon—however much they might have desired it. The Governments of these two states, and of all other Arab States, were too weak and too unpopular to risk being stung on the thorny issue of a settlement with Israel. Then, in the summer of 1952, came the Neguib revolution and the apparent enthusiasm in Egypt and the whole Arab world for the new regime. Here at last was a popular, unorthodox and apparently

strong Government which was not afraid of public opinion and which did not hesitate to discuss publicly its relations with Israel.

It was understood that Neguib and his colleagues needed time and some important successes in the field of foreign affairs before they could consider an Israel settlement. They needed, in short, success in the Sudan and in persuading the British to withdraw their troops from the Canal zone—on Egypt's terms. That would have given the regime sufficient prestige to tackle almost anything.



But it did not happen that way. As a result, Mr. Sharett is faced by a very different scene. The Anglo-Egyptian negotiations are nearer to deadlock than to conclusion. The regime in Egypt is beset by severe economic difficulties, and by the reviving strength of the Moslem Brotherhood as the focus of all political opposition. It is not as popular as it used to be either in Egypt or in the Arab world generally. It is still far from feeling strong. It is thus in no position to reach a settlement with Israel.

Israel's position *vis-à-vis* Egypt, has now been re-stated by Mr. Sharett. It is a timely statement which should go far to remove some of the confusion and misconceptions that have been voiced recently by some of Israel's friends and supporters.

Israel is not in any way opposed to the fulfilment of Egypt's national aspirations, Mr. Sharett said. Israel would not align herself with those who reject Egypt's claims; that was not Israel's concern. All he wanted was to ensure Israel's interest by safeguarding the balance of military strength between Israel and Egypt, and also free passage of all ships through the Suez Canal.



The Canal question is one that concerns all seafaring nations. The other question, that of the balance of power, is one which does not directly affect Egypt. But it does concern Great Britain and the United States. Both have told the Israel Government that it would be impracticable to introduce the subject of Israel into the Cairo talks, or to give any kind of written assurances to Israel.

But the prospect of a suitable arrangement still exists. Discussions on how to redress the possible unbalance of forces in the Middle East caused by the withdrawal of British troops from Egypt have been going on for some time in London and Washington. These contacts between the Israel Government, the Foreign Office and the State Department are continuing but, so far, no precise proposals on the manner in which Israel could be reassured have been formulated. It remains possibly Mr. Sharett's foremost problem in the field of foreign affairs.

IN THE NEWS



ANEURIN BEVAN FOR ISRAEL

It is strange how the Middle East invariably brings out the most intolerant qualities of the House of Commons and the British press. First, it was the Jews in Palestine; then, it was Persia; after that Egypt; and now the Bevan articles and Egypt have become involved.

Personally, I am more interested in the fact that Bevan is about to pay his first visit to the Middle East. He is going first to Egypt with Jennie Lee and Crossman as companions. Then they part company. Bevan and his wife go on to Jordan and from there will cross via the Old City into Israel; Crossman is going to Kenya.

I do not think that it is realised over here that Bevan has an extraordinary following both in Egypt and Israel. Many of the younger non-Communist radicals look to him as the incorporation of non-Communist militant socialism. This applies to some of the foremost men in the military Junta in Egypt and also to a number of leading younger members of both Mapai and Mapam in Israel.

SHINWELL CRITICAL

What will Bevan tell them? What he said in the article about Suez which caused such a rumpus is, he claims, Labour's official policy (at least while it is in opposition).

This was disputed at the week-end by ex-Defence Minister Shinwell. He claimed in effect that Labour's official policy was "not to scuttle" from Egypt

and outlined Labour's position in terms which resembles that of the "Tory Rebels."

Whose advice will Israel take? Shinwell has just been there; Bevan is going there. Sharett will renew a war-time acquaintanceship. They used to meet in London in 1943 when Bevan was one of the strongest advocates of a Jewish Army.

DEUTSCHER'S RETURN

Isaac Deutscher, Stalin's biographer, was full to the point of verbal overflowing when I met him on his return from Israel. For very many years he had been a convinced anti-Zionist. His attitude changed at the end of the war. He still has his reservations about the solution of the Jewish question which created another, a Jewish nation-state at a time when the nation-state has become historically an anachronism. Yet he recognises—unlike the anti-Zionists—the inevitability of the State of Israel; there was no alternative left to European Jewry at the end of the war.

He lectured to the Histadrut school (in Yiddish), to the General Staff school (in English), to kibbutzim, and he met an unending stream of boyhood companions from his early days in Cracow and Warsaw.

MYERSON AND NAMIR

What most impressed him was the intellectual curiosity of the people—the wide range of their reading. While he



Soviet expert Isaac Deutscher—an encounter with intellectual curiosity.

was there new Hebrew translations of Macbeth, Shelley and of Pushkin's Eugene Onegin had been published. He met bus-drivers, factory-foremen, and a lonely sentry on a Huleh outpost who all had read his "Stalin." Koestler was quite wrong when he said that the use of Hebrew would lead to Israel becoming "a nation of Tarzans" isolated from the stream of knowledge in the outside world.

Who of the political leaders most impressed Deutscher? First place was



The head of Golda Myerson being completed by sculptress Madame Zehavia Elath, wife of the Israel Ambassador. (See page 10.)

taken by a woman: Golda Myerson, the Minister of Labour. "Had she not been a woman, she would now have been Prime Minister," he insisted. Runner-up in Deutscher's esteem was Mordecai Namir, the General Secretary of the Histadrut.

MME. ELATH'S HEAD

Apropos of Deutscher's comment on Golda Myerson, I was able last week to view the completed bronze cast of Mrs. Myerson's head which has been sculptured by Mme. Elath. It is a remarkably effective piece which brings out the strength of Mrs. Myerson's features and character. It still graces the Ambassador's library but it now belongs to Mrs. Myerson. Mme. Elath said regretfully that she does not look forward to parting with it. Her work in progress includes busts of Viscount Samuel and of the Ambassador.

TERRITORIAL UNION AND MIZRACHI

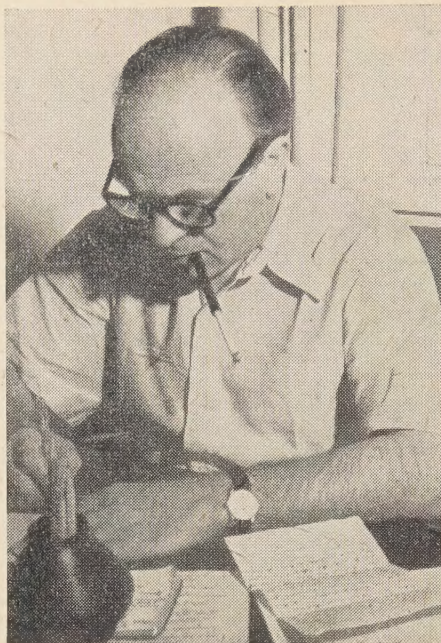
The General-Secretary of the Mizrahi tells me that there was no Council or Executive meeting on Monday, as was expected, to discuss Territorial Union. He disowned that there were differences of opinion in the Mizrahi over the proposal.

"A resolution on Territorial Union was passed at the annual conference and there can be no question of reconsideration," he said.

Hamazkir writes:

AGRON AT SIXTY

Many happy returns to my old friend and fellow-journalist, Gershon Agron, who attains the dignity of a sexagenarian next week. It is particularly agreeable to offer birthday congratulations to one whom I have known for rather more than half of his life-time. He has become such a familiar and esteemed figure in the *Yishuv* that it is difficult to realise that he ever lived elsewhere. He was born in a little town in Russia, called Mena, emigrated to the United States as a boy of thirteen, and became editor of the American Zionist Yiddish weekly, *Dos Yiddische Folk*, when he was twenty-four. In 1918 he responded



Jerusalem Post's Agron—a personal landmark.

to the call of Jabotinsky by joining the Jewish Legion and thus reached Jerusalem. Once in the Holy City, he remained there and became attached to it for the rest of his life, except for a few years as editor of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in New York.

Mr. Agron's great achievement, when he was better known as Agronsky, was the founding twenty years ago of the *Palestine Post*, whose name was afterwards changed to the *Jerusalem Post*. I still recall the doubts that were felt in Zionist circles at the time when the paper was first projected, but Agron's confidence proved justified, and with his editorial ability and devotion he has succeeded in making the *Post* an indispensable organ of public opinion. The enemies of Israel who blew up his offices in 1948 enjoyed a very brief triumph, for the paper resumed publication with hardly a hitch.

JEW OR ISRAELITE

It always seemed odd to me that the Jews in France, especially those belonging to the assimilated section, preferred to be called "Israelites" rather than "Juifs," and indeed objected to the latter designation as though it were a term of op-

probrium. This attitude found striking expression in the incident that occurred at the recent reception given by the Jewish Consistory to the new Israel Ambassador in Paris, when the President indulged in an unnecessary affirmation of his loyalty to his native country and declared that he and his friends were not French Jews but "French Israelites."

The incident reminds me of a heated argument that took place at the Conference of Jewish representative organisations held in Paris in the summer of 1946 for the purpose of watching over Jewish interests in the Peace Treaties with the defeated countries. A regular storm broke out over the use of the expression "the Jewish people" in one of the paragraphs under discussion. A delegate of the Alliance Israelite vehemently maintained that there was no such thing as "*le peuple juif*," and although the delegates of all the other delegations maintained that the expression in its context was correct, they had to give way in the interests of unanimity. They had to compromise by adopting the peculiar phrase "the Jewish collectivity."

HEBREW LANGUAGE BOARD

It is over sixty years since the *Vaad Halashon* was founded in Jerusalem by Eliezer Ben-Yehuda for the purpose of watching over and stimulating the growth of the vocabulary of the Hebrew language. It was composed of scholars and experts who coined whatever fresh mintings were wanted on the basis of existing Hebrew roots and published them in a quarterly journal. Now it has been succeeded by a new body created by a nominating committee, which met last week under the chairmanship of Professor Ben Zion Dinur, the Minister of Education and Culture. It is rather curious, however, that while the *Vaad Halashon* was always called the Language Board, its more imposing successor, designating itself in English the Hebrew Language Board, has not yet decided what its official Hebrew name shall be. This is to form its first task.

Nobody can quarrel with the composition of the new Board for its fifteen members include first rate authorities on all aspects of the Hebrew language and literature and Jewish history, as well as writers of eminence.

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IS ISRAEL'S SOCIALISM OBSOLETE?

By YAAKOV MORRIS

The tremendous influx of newcomers since 1948 has transformed the political character of Israel's left parties. It has not only affected their internal composition, political outlook and strength in relation to each other, but has also brought a transformation in their numerical and qualitative relation to Israel's right. Witness to this is the impressive growth of the General Zionist Party between the elections to the First and Second Knesset. From 22,661 votes or 5.2 per cent. of the electorate, it increased to 111,394, or 16.2 per cent. Today, its spokesmen talk of winning a parliamentary majority at the next general election.

During this same period Mapai has increased its position from 35.7 to 37.3 per cent. whilst Mapam has lost ground from 14.7 to 12.5 per cent. Significantly, and this mainly because of the dissatisfaction amongst Israel's Arab minority, the only party of the extreme left to have gained have been the Communists, who slightly improved their position between the two elections from 3.5 to 4.0 per cent.

Decline in Pioneering: There are two explanations for this development, both of which can be attributed to the impact of the new immigrants. First, the pioneering character of the country and population has been swamped. Second, the dependence of Zionism and Israel upon aid from both the Western Bloc and Western Jewry has compelled the left parties to retreat all along the line. To achieve the Ingathering has meant emphasising as never before the need for class co-operation between workers and capitalists within Zionism.

This, always a feature of Zionist history but allowing the classes a certain margin of independence, has now left little room for political difference. It has reflected itself in the procession of Coalition Governments, despite the overall majority the labour movement has always held. Both of these factors can be held responsible for the relative decline of the left-wing parties.

The new immigrants have almost trebled the working class and have radically changed its political complexion. They were in the first place a non-pioneer element, uneducated to the concepts and role of revolutionary Zionism. They had no prior socialist background and certainly no understanding of the traditional ideologies and activities of the

local labour movement, but were attracted to it solely on the plane of immediate need—jobs, housing and working conditions. Those parties which failed to adapt themselves to this basic situation found their political strength waning.

Isolation of Mapam: This, more than in any other case, happened to Mapam. Although it had formed city branches, its primary support, leadership and outlook remained based upon its two kibbutz movements, *Arzi* and *Hameuchad*.

Stubbornly retaining its "*chalutz*" appeal, it found itself more and more isolated from the country's new and dominant realities. Both its unchanged programme and leadership thus continued to reflect the rural and collectivist approach which once gave it limited support in the towns as well. Not that it was essential for Mapam to drop this aspect of its programme, but if it wished to speak the language of the new immigrant, and responsibly adapt itself to the changed problems facing the community as a whole, it had to shift its main focus to the towns.

Its traditional theory of the rural

workers leading the urban proletariat—a theory which had also been held in varying degree by the rest of the labour movement—became shattered overnight. Instead, as the new immigrants swarmed mainly to the cities, Mapam found itself isolated in the countryside, except for the limited number of activists its kibbutzim and city branches could muster. Its programme and outlook became almost monastic in relation to the main issues facing Israel's new population.

Mapai, on the other hand, was in a better position to face these changes. Traditionally, and although its kibbutz and moshav sectors had once supplied a great part of its leadership, its main strength lay in the cities. It had therefore a better organised and more experienced framework to absorb the new immigrant. It had also the tradition behind it of being the majority party which had led Zionism to Statehood, and therefore the new immigrant to his haven of refuge from either Europe's DP camps or medieval Arab society.

The Influence of Power: It had, too, the experience of government and administration, inherited from both the Zionist movement and the Yishuv and, in addition, its majority position within the Histadrut made it the dominant force in the life of the new State.

(Continued on page 12)



Israel's multilingual press competes for the political allegiance of newcomers.



The immigrant working-class—will they change Israel's Left?

This control of the greater part of the new governmental apparatus, and its dominant role in the Histadrut, had other practical implications. Although the political life of the State was democratic from the outset, the mere fact that the Labour Exchanges and executive machinery of government were mainly controlled by Mapai, had inevitably to result in that party exerting influence beyond its actual strength and above the attractions of its political programme.

It also resulted in new members joining on the basis of material interests and not through political conviction. This is mentioned without any attempt being made to moralise it—it is doubtful whether any other party in power would have made less political profit from this objective fact or exploited it with less alacrity.

Dilution of Politics: But Mapai was also ideally placed to gain strength in the countryside as well as the town. The percentage of the new immigrants who entered agriculture were mainly candidates for the co-operative type of village, the moshav. As the moshav movement was traditionally Mapai (Mapam having only latterly and short-sightedly thought in terms of this type of village) the majority of new agricultural workers came under its influence.

To a lesser extent, the religious labour parties also gained from this as they too had organised co-operative settlements. Those who entered kibbutzim had the choice of Mapai, Mapam or Hapoel Hamizrachi federations.

It is self-evident that by sheer numbers alone, the kibbutz sectors of both Mapai and Mapam were destined to be weakened. In the case of Mapai, which had lost its left opposition with the with-

drawal of *Achdut Ha-Avodah*, the combined kibbutz and moshav wing was swamped internally by the number of new immigrants recruited to the party.

Even though the original leadership remained, itself a bad reflection upon its internal democratic structure, the level of political knowledge and consciousness of the membership had become diluted.

To a lesser extent this occurred within Mapam which, because of its particular ideology and structure, found the maintenance of its original leadership an easier problem. Its democratic centralism, and block voting of kibbutz wings, continued to ensure an unchanged leadership.

Few Newcomers in Parliament: In fact, and *en passant*, out of an entire Knesset membership of 120, the number of MK's of all parties who have arrived in the country since 1948 can be counted on the fingers of one hand.

Yet despite Mapai's increased membership, which by 1952 had grown to 128,000, its relative strength in the country had but recorded an improvement of 1.6 per cent. And despite Mapam's increase to 43,000 it had lost ground by 2.2 per cent. amongst the electorate. In this same period the General Zionists had improved their position by no less than 11 per cent.

The explanation of this development has to be sought not only in the changed character of the population, but also in the crisis in thought and programme which has overtaken Israel's labour movement as a result of mass-immigration.

Western Aid Weakens Israel Socialism: In contrast to the period before Statehood, as revealed in our first article,

Israel's left parties could no longer depend to such a degree upon their guaranteed rural and urban votes, to maintain their position in the country, Immigration had made the number of "floating voters" preponderant, and these could only be attracted on the basis of party programmes and energetic organisational efforts in the cities.

No economic interests bound them in loyalty and belief to either Mapai, Mapam or the religious parties. The kibbutz movements had lost their vanguard status within the Histadrut and country. The centre of political interest and importance lay in the cities; the country was becoming as "normal" as any other, with the working class beginning to lead the peasantry.

Of equal weight were the changes in the country's political situation. Objectively speaking, the mass intake of new immigrants imposed an almost limitless need for material aid both from American Jewry and the U.S. Government.

The implications of this were increased class co-operation to attract outside support and joint efforts to seek "national" solutions for internal difficulties. This dependence upon outside aid defined the unreservedly Western orientation of Mapai in foreign policy and even compelled Mapam to adopt the more cautious policy of non-alignment with Eastern Europe, and "neutrality" towards East and West.

It was in the field of home policy, however, that the greatest crisis hit the two main parties. Mapai's approach—belief in a national coalition government—and its failure to bring in Mapam, had inevitably to result in the whittling down of its original socialist programme with unexpected rapidity. Ben-Gurion's slogan of "Socialism in our time"—was soon dropped and became replaced by a programme no more radical than that of the British Liberal Party.

Mapai's Lack of Policy: Even its programme of social reform fell far short of that of Beveridge, not only because of the country's lack of funds, but also because of the political price Mapai had to pay its coalition partners. In fact, it is true to say that the party soon lost any vestiges of coherent policy, basing its programme upon a piecemeal process of coalition agreement.

The "Honeymoon"—Will it Last?: Naturally, there was a certain reluctance shown by many of its old stalwarts who, on one occasion and with little political perspicacity, demonstrated symbolically in the form of the famous "Red Flag" incident connected with the schools. But

this had little impact on the main development.

Agreements with both the religious and General Zionist right-wing parties were reached on education, national service, the marriage bill, and many other issues, on lines which Mapai would never have accepted but a few years previously. On foreign policy, it reached full accord with the right, as few differences existed between them. The growing national emergency within, and the need for outside aid, had obscured the political differences between Mapai and the bourgeois parties, leaving the major struggle between them solely on diverse economic interests.

Whether this unanimity will continue should Western aid dry up or political relations with America become strained through the latter's pro-Arab trend, is as pertinent a question for Mapai as was the challenge to Mapam's Zionism when Prague and its aftermath occurred.

Mapam, for quite different reasons, has been even more critically affected by the Ingathering. It has never fully accepted or adapted itself to its implications. To have an anti-Western orientation when a prerequisite of the Ingathering was receiving material aid from that source, meant pursuing an unreal and unpatriotic position.

This was further emphasised by Mapam's opposition on the German Reparations negotiations. Nor could it offer any practical alternative, as the Eastern bloc offered no material support for Israel and, politically, increased its hostility in proportion to Israel's increasing dependence upon the West.

Mapam's Serious Internal Division: That this contradiction is appreciated by Israel's population can be seen from the fact that, despite the deterioration of the country's living standards—a phenomenon which strengthens the left in other lands—Mapam has lost ground amongst the electorate.

It was also reflected by a serious internal division between its *Hashomer Hatzair* and *Achdut Ha'Avoda* wings. This division was brought to crisis point when the Communist world made it clear that Zionism was still reactionary, an agent of foreign imperialisms and that no hope lay in obtaining substantial immigration or alternative economic aid from that source.

Thus the effects of Mapam staying outside the government coalition can have dire consequences for both itself and Mapai. For its isolation from current realities is not only reducing its own strength, creating sharp crisis internally and making its patriotism suspect for

the first time in its history; it is also weakening Mapai's capacity to bargain with the right, is indirectly speeding up the dilution of Mapai's class character and is handing over the country's political initiative to the growing right-wing.

In short, the continued division of Israel's social democratic movement and left wing, is opening the doors for defeat for both as has occurred in other countries facing national crisis. That this has become clear to *Achdut Ha'Avoda* within Mapam, was reflected by its defeated demand a few weeks ago that Mapam reopen negotiations with Mapai to enter the Coalition Government. The religious labour parties have already taken this step.

Should Mapam remain obdurate and stay outside, it is destined to go down either because of internal conflict, or because it will be by-passed by Israel's population, which still wants Western aid until it is able to build up enough industry and agriculture to make the country more independent economically. To change Mapai's line will require a fundamental revision not only in policy but also in outlook as well. The local labour movement is faced by the problem that its imported ideologies are destined to be broken on the rock of Israel's realities. This lesson, at least, is clear.



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HOW REPARATIONS WILL TRANSFORM ISRAEL

By ELIEZER LASERSON

A small white building, almost hidden in the shadow of tall trees situated in what was once the German Templar Colony of Saron and is now Tel Aviv's Government Quarter, has become a nerve centre of Israel's economy. This is the headquarters of the Shilumim Corporation, the body controlling the ordering and distribution of goods imported from Germany under the Reparations agreement. Here a group of executives, economic and technical advisers and a small administrative staff, handle \$800 million worth of Reparations goods, equipment and raw materials, which plays a great part in the economic destiny of Israel.

In Germany, the Reparations business is managed by an Israel Mission enjoying *de facto* diplomatic status. It is headed by Dr. F. Shinnar, who holds the official rank of Minister Plenipotentiary in the Israel Diplomatic service, who is assisted by Dr. Hayim Yahil, also a career diplomat, and Dr. A. Bergman, who resides partly in West Berlin, which will be an important supply area as far as Reparations are concerned.

The main Mission is at Koeln, somewhat away from official Bonn, and consists of several departments handling the various phases of ordering, inspecting, packing, transferring and insuring the Reparations goods. There are legal and political, as well as obvious economic and financial problems, involved, which are all being handled by the Mission.

An Austere Board of Management: In Israel, the Shilumim Corporation is headed by a Board of Directors. Chairman is Dr. Giora Josephthal, Treasurer of the Jewish Agency, and directors are representatives of the various economic Ministries, of the rank of Director-General, and senior officers of the Corporation. The General Manager is Hillel Dan, a leading figure of Solel Boneh, the large Histadrut concern, and his deputy is Abraham Polany, a captain of Israel's citrus industry, representing private enterprise. Commercial Manager is Asher Zitron, formerly director of Heavy Industries.

All these people, and their close assistants, are concentrated in a small building and an adjacent group of wooden prefabricated houses. For although the Shilumim Corporation deals with hundreds of millions of dollars, its business has been conducted in an



Hillel Dan—General Manager of the Corporation controlling the purchase and allocation of Reparations goods.

atmosphere of austerity and manpower economy.

This tendency has even evoked some criticism from industrial circles, who maintain that out of what they consider exaggerated austerity "the company uses too small teams of experts for the examination of proposals." Experience proves, however, that the corporation's small but efficient teams have been able to examine and advise all interested parties within a minimum lapse of time.

The Reparations organisation is advised by a Council, where all major economic institutions of the country are represented. This body is presided by Dr. Herbert Foerder, Member of the Knesset and a recognised specialist in economic matters.

Thirty Thousand Tons a Month: The Reparations Corporation was founded at the beginning of 1953. In May, the Israel Mission arrived in Germany, and after the first negotiations the initial purchases were made in the beginning of July. In the middle of August the first ship brought Reparations goods to the shores of Israel. For the period September 1952—March 1954, Israel can purchase goods for the sum of 400 million

Deutschemarks. Of this sum, 150 million were allocated to administrative expenses, but Israel has used only a small fraction of this sum and it is hoped that the balance will be re-allotted to goods. Already part of this sum has been used for the purchase of goods from "third parties," i.e. outside of Germany against *Deutschemark* balances.

Of a balance of 130 million *Deutschemarks*, goods had already been ordered for 120 millions, and 80 millions worth of goods have actually been bought. 45,000 tons of goods, mostly agricultural products and raw materials for the chemical industry, iron and other metals for construction purposes, electric wires, etc., have already arrived with the first boats from Germany.

"Throughout the winter we expect monthly deliveries of 30 thousand tons of goods," Mr. Hillel Dan told me. "The German firms are very anxious to do business with the Israel Mission. One of the main reasons is the fact that payment by the German Government is immediate. Some firms, namely those with extensive business connections in the Arab States refrain from dealing with us officially, but they too try to find ways and means of carrying out transactions through agents or affiliated companies," he said. "In general we refrain from paying high prices, and we never pay above the current prices on the European market."

Normal Trade Balance By 1957: The Management of the Reparations corporation are convinced that the capital goods, raw materials, industrial and technical equipment and other purchases will mean a revolution in Israel's economic position, and that results will be felt in four years. Here is a rough estimate of the changes to be expected towards the year 1957:

Israel's current import needs are \$250 million per annum. Of these, \$50 million are covered by Israeli exports. As a result of Reparations purchases Israel in 1957 will have a trade deficit of only \$75 million as compared with \$200 million this year. This will result from Reparations imports for over \$300 million during this period. Under such circumstances, Mr. Dan feels that Israel would achieve a normal trade balance in about seven years as a result of Reparations payments.

An extremely important point emphasised by all leading personalities in the Reparations Corporation or the Israel Mission in Koeln, is the readiness of German firms, to offer credit to the Israelis. This means that German busi-

ness circles have confidence in the reliability of the Reparations Agreement.

Not less significant is the favourable attitude of the German press, in which Israel is being allotted considerable space. This atmosphere enables Israel to make purchases well beyond the sums laid down by the agreement, and, as a result of local loans, to obtain equipment immediately against amounts that would cover several years. Such credit is applicable, for instance, to purchases of ships, a floating dock and expensive industrial machinery.

The General Development Programme: The Israel Economic Recovery Plan is based on Reparations imports, on Israeli currency payments to the Government against such deliveries, and on purchases from other sources, including new foreign and local investments. The details of the plan, which is mainly based on the Reparations purchases, are being kept secret because of obvious purchasing problems. A "cards on the table" policy here might cause the rise of prices. Yet the Reparations buying programme is geared to the general seven-year development plan of Israel announced at the recent Economic Conference in Jerusalem. In rough outline, the plan would

mean the reduction of the need to import food. This means heavy investment of Reparations in irrigation, including electrical machinery for water-pumping stations; expansion of pipeline producing industries, agricultural machinery and cattle; the building of roads between fertile agricultural areas and centres of population, and the acquisition of vehicles for the transport of agricultural products.

Industry—Transport—Electricity: Israel has a fairly well developed industry but it cannot compete successfully on the international market because of the cost of production. With the expansion of the electric network and the introduction of better and cheaper communications by road and rail—all through Reparations goods—industrial output should be much greater and much cheaper. Transport purchases would mean, as announced by the Director of the Ministry of Transport, more and better trains, new railroads, more transport vehicles, ships and equipment. It would also mean more roads to make raw materials accessible to industrial areas.

An important priority list is equipment that would help make full use of the natural resources of Israel, and particularly the chemical resources of the

Dead Sea, of the Negev and of other regions.

One must bear in mind, of course, that Reparations are not the only source of the economic recovery programme, and that both the Israel citizen and foreign currency obtained by Israel in countries outside Germany will play an important role. Nevertheless, the constructive value of Reparations is in the fact that these large sums will be made available for a lengthy period at fixed intervals, thus enabling the Israel authorities to plan purchases and to work out a long-range programme.

Close Public Interest: The arrival of Reparations equipment and raw materials will no doubt be noticeable not only in Israel's economy but also in its landscape. More green irrigated land, more roads, railways, pipelines, factories, more food as a result of agricultural expansion, all these will be clearly noticeable. But it may well take several years, before the full impact of Reparations is felt. Israel is already following with close attention the activities of Reparation, or *Shilumim*, as the transaction is called in Israel; but for the time being, this important development is yet in its infancy. Its full scope and its problems will become more apparent as time goes on.

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BOOKS

PREACHERS AND PROPHETS

By R. J. ZWI WERBLOWSKY

ECCLESIASTES OR THE PREACHER, by A. D. Power, pp. 156. (Longmans Green. 8s. 6d.)

THE PROPHETS SPEAK TO US ANEW, by Rabbi David Wanevski, pp. 232. (Philosophical Library, New York, \$4.00)

THE THOUGHT OF THE PROPHETS, by Israel I. Mattuck, pp. 176. (George Allen & Unwin, 9s. 6d.)

Like many preachers after him, "The Preacher" Ecclesiastes-Qoheleth leaves his readers slightly bewildered. The biblical book which bears this uninviting title has been divergently described as "the labour of a fretful Jewish philosopher, composed in a morose mood, and exceedingly tedious in places" (A. T. Hartmann) and as "one of man's noblest offerings on the altar of truth" (R. Gordis). Commentaries and interpretations of its meaning vary not less widely than

the above appreciations. Mr. Power has served a useful purpose by bringing together "in a small compass, the more important conclusions at which the principal authorities have arrived." Without arguing specifically in favour of any one opinion, and without trying to emulate the larger standard-commentaries, the author succeeds in giving a judicious and often amusing survey of the main problems of the book.

The notes do not intend to be exhaustive but are interesting and informative and have the advantage of embodying in concise form the results and suggestions of modern critical scholarship. The translation is pleasant and often refreshingly novel.

Rabbi Wanevski's book is more pretentious and less scholarly. Setting out to "unfold again the eternal validity" of the prophetic utterances, his "popularisation of the ideas of the prophets" is nothing but a *précis* of the contents of each chapter of the prophetic books.

That such summaries can be useful as guides to the reader when printed in the margins or under the chapter headings of Bibles, is not to be denied. It is more difficult to see the justification of publishing in book-form such paraphrases as (to pick a random example) of Jer. 12: 7-13, 14-17, "Therefore, declares God, He has forsaken his dearest people, who have turned against each other like animals in a forest, and who have therefore easily fallen a prey to the foreign enemy. The surrounding peoples, however, who have persecuted Israel will not escape with impunity. If they are reinstated it will only be after they will have learned to have faith in God as it is taught by Israel." All this can be found much more satisfactorily in the book of *Jeremiah*. Whenever the text becomes difficult, the author simply follows the traditional rabbinic exegesis. He is not aware, apparently, that by not adhering to the traditional chapter divisions, many passages could be made to yield more sense.

The Thought of the Prophets has essentially the same purpose as Rabbi Wanevski's book, though here the popularisation of prophetic teaching and the unfolding of its eternal relevance are presented in a somewhat less simplistic fashion. The author's account of the nature of prophetic activity, and his

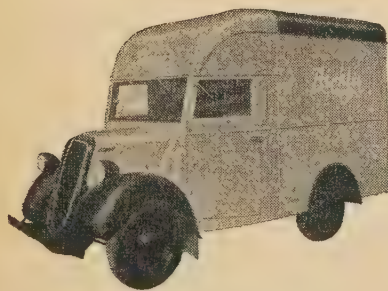
analysis of the prophets' views on God, man, morals, politics, society and history are, as a rule, adequate enough for a popular work. It is open to doubt, however, whether a reader who was disposed to question the particular significance of Old Testament teaching to our days, would be converted by a perusal of Rabbi Mattuck.

Though rarely positively misleading, his volume lacks dimension of depth and a firm theological or scientific viewpoint. Thus we are told that monotheism emerged from primitive Hebrew religion "by the mystery of God's grace. He revealed Himself first as . . . the God of a particular people" until, by another mystery "to be explained only by revelation . . . the belief in one God with universal sovereignty" emerged in the prophetic teaching. But as, according to the author, the prophets were wont to "attribute to His illumination their knowledge of Him" one wonders what revelation, be it ever so progressive, really means.

This wavering between traditional theistic jargon and that of modern positivism bespeaks more confusion of thought than liberalism of theology. In the main Rabbi Mattuck follows the critical opinions of twenty years ago, apparently unaware of the many changes that recent scholarship has brought about in our understanding of prophecy and the prophets.

Far from inventing or discovering standards of morality, or evolving a "higher" religion, the prophets constantly presupposed and referred themselves to a covenant-tradition whose standards were admitted by all; neither is the opposition of true *versus* false prophets identical with that between paid officials *versus* inspired freelancers. To describe the prophets' attitude to

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sacrifice and the cult as mere negation is definitely *demodé*, and the author's over-frequent use of the term "mysticism" obscures the real situation more than it helps to illuminate it. Yet, within its limits, Rabbi Mattuck's book gives a reasonably fair account of its subject.

REFERENCE

"THE ZIONIST YEAR BOOK 1953-4," edited by Dr. J. Litvin (Zionist Federation, 10/6d.)

This, the third, edition of "The Zionist Year Book" is an improvement on its predecessor. Many inaccuracies have been corrected, some inessentials have been eliminated and information has been more efficiently systematised. Among its special features are an analysis of economic conditions in Israel during 1952, by Dr. E. Neumann, which summarises concisely the effects of the Israel Government's anti-inflationary policies, the New Economic Policy and the introduction of selective immigration.

Another interesting and authoritative feature is Moshe Rosetti's description of the structure, development and function of the Knesset. Mr. Rosetti, as Clerk of the Knesset and a careful student of British parliamentary practices, is perhaps the most able interpreter of parliamentary procedure in Israel.

Dr. Levenberg contributes a survey in outline of the manifold activities of the Histadrut; Dr. Granott, Chairman of the Keren Kayemet, indicates Jewish National Fund tasks for the future; Mr. H. Lewis lists and describes British communal settlements in Israel; Mr. Richtiger has written a section for tourists describing booking, visa and customs formalities, hotels and tourist attractions; and there is a profile of President Ben-Zvi.

The "Who's Who" is still in need of revision. If it is to be a comprehensive list of world Zionist leaders and officials then it is far from complete. If it is to be a general directory of Jewish personalities, not necessarily Zionist, as the presence, for example, of Arthur Koestler would suggest, then it is even less complete. On this matter there could usefully be an editorial ruling. Both the Survey of World Jewish Affairs and the Bibliography would be improved by greater selectivity and a sense of discrimination.

Nevertheless, as a work of reference the Zionist Year Book seems to be "shaking down" and making a place for itself.

K.-L.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FALL OF HAIFA

Sir,—Mr. Atiyah's statement in his book "The Fall of Haifa" (*Jewish Observer* No. 13) that the British had told the Jews but not the Arabs that they proposed to evacuate the major part of Haifa is correct. The Haganah were informed of it a few days before April 21, 1948. General Stockwell notified it to the Arab Commander of the National Guards only at 11.30 a.m. on that date, and made it clear to the Commander that he would not interfere in any Arab-Jewish clashes in the evacuated area. This is why Mr. Ben-Gurion ordered the Haganah to occupy the Arab quarters at all cost.

When the notification was made to the Arab Commander, the evacuation had been completed, and his vehement protests against this surprise measure were of no avail. But the evacuation was, nevertheless, known to a handful of Arabs. They were warned of it by their Jewish friends, as well as of the impending attack on the Arab part of the Town. Fearing a massacre similar to that of Deir Yassin they fled with their families before the Jewish attack was launched.

Unfortunately, almost all the responsible members of the Arab Local Committee set up by Haj Amin to manage Arab affairs in Haifa district were out of the country at this critical moment.

Mr. Farid Saad, the Manager of the local branch of the Arab Bank and an influential member of the Committee, heard of the meeting between General Stockwell and the Arab Commander at 3 p.m. He did his utmost to arrange for a meeting between the General and an Arab committee provisionally formed to deal with the emergency. He appealed to the District Commissioner and to his Assistant to ensure an early meeting emphasising that there were reasonable prospects for a satisfactory arrangement to stop the clashes that necessitated the evacuation.

It was only at 9.30 p.m. that Mr. Saad was told of the General's willingness to meet the committee at 9.30 next morning. It was too late. The Jewish attack was in progress, the military authorities refused to interfere, the debacle had begun and the British Navy

was busy transporting the panic-stricken Arabs by sea to Acre.

Nevertheless, animated by an honest desire to restore peace and order to the Town, the Arab Committee, of which I was a member, met General Stockwell at 11 a.m. on April 22, in the presence of the District Commissioner, and the British Consul-General Marriot and other senior officers.

The Committee strongly urged the General to take immediate control of the Town and to restore peace and order, assuring him of their willingness to co-operate with the authorities to that end. They stressed the fact that the evacuation was a flagrant violation of the declared policy of the British Government to continue to be solely responsible for peace and order until the end of the Mandate. He refused to interfere unless an Arab-Jewish truce, the terms of which legalised the evacuation and occupation by the Haganah of the Arab quarters of the Town, was first concluded. The Committee was unable to accept this.

It became evident that the British Government was, in reality, playing a double game. While its delegate at the U.N. was loudly proclaiming that his Government would not subscribe to any solution unacceptable to the Arabs and to the Jews and would not implement it, its servants in Palestine, civil and military, were actively enforcing the U.N. partition scheme.

They defended Jaffa against Jewish attacks to the last moment of the Mandate because it formed part of the Arab State. They compelled Fawzi Kawkji to stop the attack against Mishmar Haemek; they removed the Arab inhabitants from Tiberias and surrendered it to the Jews; and they permitted the Haganah to occupy the Arab quarters of Haifa because all these localities formed part of the Jewish State.

The British Government opposed the partition outwardly, implemented it clandestinely, and effectively eliminated the 45 per cent. Arab minority from the Jewish State. These incontrovertible facts are sufficient to show that the British Government was not an altogether innocent spectator.

Elias N. Koussa.

P.O.B.14, Haifa.

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JEWISH AFFAIRS

HEBREW UNIVERSITY

MASTER OF ROLLS, SIR FRANCIS EVERSHED FOR ISRAEL

The Master of the Rolls, Sir Francis Evershed, is shortly to visit the Hebrew University as the second Lionel Cohen Visiting Lecturer in English Law. Speaking at a dinner given in the Hall of Lincoln's Inn by the Legal Group of the Friends of the Hebrew University, he announced that he would lecture on the Rules of Equity, "which can put forward a true claim to have made a contribution towards the advance of civilisation and the happiness of mankind."

Gradually Evolved: The advantage enjoyed by the principles of Equity was that they had gradually evolved but had never been precisely stated. Their virtue lay in their elasticity and their power of growth and adaptation. They rested on history and formed a part of history; it would be interesting to see if they could be incorporated into a new environment as part of a new system of law.

Professor Arthur Goodhart, Q.C., the first Lionel Cohen Lecturer, said that he was sure that the Master of the Rolls would receive an extraordinarily warm welcome wherever he went in Israel, although he warned him that most of the University people there were "as poor as synagogue mice."

Rival Law Systems: There was a conflict now going on in Israel between lawyers who had been trained on the Continent and those who had been

trained in Britain and America, he said, and some ex-Continental lawyers wished to alter parts of the law deriving from the Common Law.

There was also a second conflict between those whose training in the Common Law had been gained in Britain and those whose training had been gained in the U.S.A. At the moment the balance was tilted on the side of the Americans. For example, a group of



Mr. Harry Sabel (left) the Director of Patwa, who is returning to Israel, greets his successor, Mr. J. Levitsky, at a reception given in their honour.

Harvard lawyers were engaged in studying possible drafts for Israel legislation. One of the difficulties was the shortage of British books in Israel. He hoped that the Master of the Rolls would support the view that there was no system which gave such justice as English Law.

Lord Cohen of Walmer, who took the Chair, explained that students of law at the Hebrew University were plagued by having to learn four legal systems. Roman, Rabbinical, Islamic and English law were all of some relevance in Israel today.

ZIONIST FEDERATION WEIZMANN ANNUAL MEMORIAL LECTURES

The Dr. Chaim Weizmann Annual Memorial Lectures held under the auspices of the Leeds Zionist Council were inaugurated this month at the University of Leeds, in the presence of a large representative gathering of Leeds Jewry. Professor P. S. James, of the

Faculty of Law of Leeds University, presided and the lecture was delivered by Rabbi K. Kahana, Lecturer in Codes at Jews' College, London.

Rabbi Kahana, choosing as his theme "Ancient Jewish Law and its application in Modern Israel," opened by correcting the accepted view of Biblical Law only as a source of theology. It was not sufficiently appreciated, he said, that it provided the actual basis of a legal system, and that the Jewish people thus had a jurisprudence of its own. Many modern legal concepts, e.g. the theory of the Social Contract, could in fact be traced back to Biblical Law.

"Patchwork" of Existing Israel Legal System: Turning to Comparative Law, the lecturer spoke of the essential virtues of Jewish Law, which unlike other systems embraced both justice and equity in one system. Jewish Law had only one machinery based essentially on equitable concepts, and it was founded on the spirit rather than the letter of the law.

Rabbi Kahana referred to the confused patchwork of laws—derived in particular from Turkish and English sources—now forming the basis of the legal system in Israel. The essentials of a complete and workable system could be found in our own Biblical and Talmudic literature, he declared, and it was to be hoped that such a system presented in a modern form would eventually prevail in the Jewish State. The speaker appealed to Jewish youth to take up the task of exploring deeply and with understanding this fascinating world of Jewish Law which could yield such fruitful results.

Z.F. Executive Council: A special meeting of the Council heard a report by Mr. Harry Sacher on the recent Economic Conference he had attended in Israel.

Delegates to the Conference, he said, represented more countries than had ever previously been gathered in Israel. It was abundantly clear to all that outside help would be needed in Israel for at least a generation to come. The Jewish State, Mr. Sacher continued, was a unique pioneering enterprise comprising a small Jewish society with a relatively high standard of living and of social welfare. On the other hand, there were many people in Israel who were unused to either, and therefore there was the need to achieve a certain "normalisation of life" and effect a successful synthesis.

Mr. Sacher recorded the pleasure he felt that the Weizmann Institute and also the University and the Technion—was

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now beginning to find amongst Israelis people with the right qualifications to man these important organisations.

Speaking of the country's general progress, Mr. Sacher said that the absorption of new immigrants into a healthy economic life was far from complete, though the children were naturally being rapidly integrated. In his view Israel needed more production and perhaps a greater sense of austerity, though one could already see a marked improvement in political maturity.

Leeds Agudat Hazionim Zionist Association and Leeds Agudat Hazionim Synagogue: Mr. Janus Cohen, chairman of the Zionist Federation, was guest of honour at a Chanukah Social and spoke on the educational and cultural implications of the festival. He called for a greater awareness of the Jewish heritage and of the significance of Israel. Cultural dangers, he said, faced us today as in the days of the Maccabees, but Jewish education—particularly Jewish day schools—plus constructive activity on behalf of Israel could help strengthen our people. A heavy responsibility rested on Jewish parents, not to allow the new generation to drift into apathy and assimilation.

Mr. Simpson Solk presided.

Muswell Hill Zionist Society: A talk on his recent visit to Israel as leader of the Zionist Federation delegation was given by Dr. I. S. Fox at the annual general meeting of the society. He was greatly impressed by the progress made since his last visit two years ago, he said. Dr. Fox was re-elected President and Mr. H. L. Grunberg Chairman.

Whitley Bay Z.S.: Reporting at the Society's Annual General Meeting on a satisfactory year's work, the retiring chairman Mr. P. Morris (who was offered the Hon. Life Presidency of the society) declared there was still room for improvement in the field of Hebrew education.

Mr. S. W. Gold, Provincial Secretary of the J.P.A., introduced Mr. J. Nadler, the newly-appointed regional Zionist organiser. In addition to fund-raising the Zionist Movement had the task of helping the rising generation appreciate Israel's development through a knowledge of Modern Hebrew, and was responsible for providing publicity and correct Zionist information, said Mr. Gold. He appealed to parents to give their children the opportunity and privilege of living a free Jewish life in Israel.

Mr. E. G. Morris was elected chairman, Mr. Selinger, treasurer and Mr. E. Caleb, secretary.

TECHNION

VISIT OF BRITISH PLANNING EXPERT

In accordance with arrangements between General Yaacov Dori, President of the Israel Technion, and the Technion Society of Great Britain, town planning expert Professor Sir William Holford will be flying to Israel on the last day of the year to assist in the general planning of the New Technion site on Mount Carmel.

Sir William, who will remain in Israel for about ten days, is Professor of Town Planning at University College, London, and since 1944 has been Technical Adviser to the Ministry of Town and Country Planning. He is the author of a number of authoritative works in the field of Town and City Planning, Civic Design and reconstruction in the City of London.

CALENDAR

(Times given are G.M.T.)

Sabbath begins	Friday, December 18,	
		at 3.30 p.m.
Readings from Pentateuch	Genesis xlvii. 48-1.	
Readings from Prophets	1 Kings ii. 1-12.	
Sabbath ends	Saturday, December 19,	at 4.39 p.m.

UNITED STATES

UNITED JEWISH APPEAL CALL FOR \$120 MILLION

Agencies of the United Jewish Appeal, at the beginning of a three-day National Conference in New York, said that in 1954 they would require "an irreducible minimum" of \$119,921,150 (£42,000,000 sterling) to help ease the economic strain on Israel and for the settlement, welfare and rehabilitation needs of 475,000 Jews in 21 countries.

The Conference is meeting to prepare for the Appeal's 1954 campaign.

Mr. William Rosenwald, National Campaign chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, said that more than 86 per cent of the total requirements would be spent in Israel to help the country "realise its hopes for peaceful development, permit her to strengthen and consolidate her economy, and benefit directly 335,000 men, women and children in need of settlement, welfare, medical and rehabilitation assistance."

"Joint" States Minimum Need: Mr. Moses Beckelman, Director-General of the Joint Distribution Committee, with headquarters in Paris, told the conference his committee would require a minimum of \$26,186,000 (£9,280,000 sterling) in 1954 to meet the needs of some 165,000 men, women and children in Europe, North Africa and the Near East, including Israel.

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PUBLICATIONS

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, 19th December
EAST LONDON ZIONIST ASSOCIATION—BETH ZION, Adler House, Adler Street, E.1. M'lave Malka. Guest Speaker: Rabbi B. Lopian. Guest Chazan: Rev. J. Kacenenelbogen. At the piano: S. Taylor, Esq. In the chair: M. Pugachow, Esq. 7.30 p.m.

Sunday, 20th December
Y.P.C. (N.W.), Barclay House, 783 Finchley Road, N.W.11. Film evening, arranged by John Wittels. 7.45 p.m.

Monday, 21st December
"THE PRESS IN ISRAEL TODAY"—a talk by David Eshkol (Editorial Board "Al Hamishmar" Tel Aviv). Mapam, 37 Broadhurst Gardens, N.W.6, at 8 p.m.

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JPA-JNF NEWS

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Next week the remains of Hermann Schapira, who died in the year of the first Zionist Congress, are being transferred from Germany for re-burial in Jerusalem. Here is a pen-portrait by Elyahu Zacutta of the mathematician who conceived the idea of a Jewish National Fund.

THE FUTURE-MINDED PROFESSOR

We are all familiar with the absent-minded professor. Hermann (Zvi) Schapira might well be described as the "Future-minded Professor." He was the first to conceive two fundamental institutions of the Jewish National revival, many years before they were ripe for execution: the Hebrew University in Israel, and the Jewish National Fund. His proposals were met with scepticism and he had to repeat them at successive conferences. He did not live to see their fulfilment, but his fame is bound up with their establishment.

Scientist: What manner of man was this Rabbi and mathematician, who planned the instruments for national land, the practical basis of our work, and national culture, its crown? This combination was typical of his character. He was steeped in traditional Jewish lore and he was a devoted student of science. His life—he died when he was 57—was hard and sad. He struggled against starvation. "For two full weeks," he wrote, "I lodged in a zoological garden (in Berlin), and since I could not sleep well there because of the cold and danger, I would prepare for myself studies which required memorisation such as German, Latin, grammar, mathematics, geography, history, to occupy me during the night."

At one time he became a watchmaker to earn his living. He was born in 1840 in the district of Kovno, and at an early age displayed extraordinary intelligence. He mastered Maimonides' "Guide for the Perplexed" when he was only nine. He was early ordained as a Rabbi and functioned as such and as a teacher. But the reading of a Hebrew book on mathematics changed the course of his life, and he began to wander afield in search of opportunities for further study. Except for a brief period when he was persuaded to enter commerce, in which he succeeded, and the last year or two of his life, he lived in poverty. Yet without any modern education he rose to become a Professor at Heidelberg University (a position of honour but not affluence).

It was in 1882, in *Ha-Melitz*, that he wrote:

We must establish a large University from which will come forth

Torah, Wisdom, and Morality for the entire House of Israel.... This University should be divided into three Faculties: 1. Theology; 2. Theoretical Science; 3. Practical Science.

In 1884 he submitted to the Kattowitz Conference of *Choveve Zion* his plan for an autonomous national Jewish Fund to buy land in perpetual ownership of the people. These projects stemmed from his conception of Zionism, the purity of which is today almost startling. He wrote:

We do not wish to settle Eretz Israel immediately with all the Jews that are now scattered throughout the world. I personally am not worried about those masses who in the dark days of oppression fled to the free lands of America and who prefer those land to the land of our forefathers....

How fortunate would it be that the foundation-stone for our national homeland should be laid not by those who are oppressed and forced to flee, but rather by those who have the freedom of choice.... These people will be ready to sacrifice their wealth, their energy, and their personal comforts on the altar of our holy cause, which alone can afford spiritual tranquillity.

Naturally Schapira offered to teach at the University himself and even "to perfect myself in these sciences in which I but dabbled, such as chemistry and physics," if the project was adopted.

Gradualist: Like Ahad Ha'Am, Schapira first opposed Herzl. He did not believe in a quick political success but rather very gradual progress. But at the first Zionist Congress, Schapira rallied to Herzl and contributed much to its deliberations, including the drafting of the Basle Programme. Leib Jaffe thus describes him then:

His grey hair hung over his high forehead, his lean, harsh, ascetic face aflame with an inner light, his large eyes agleam. He spoke and wept, and the tears streamed down the cheeks of his listeners. He pointed to the youth who filled the hall, and with burning emotion said: "I am childless, and I have no sons. But these are mine.

They are enough. I can die in peace."

Schapira died in 1897, but in that year he was able to secure the adoption at Congress of his Resolution on the Jewish National Fund. We recall his famous preamble:

Let us imagine that our forefathers, when they went forth into exile, had set aside even a small sum for future generations. Then today we would be able to acquire large tracts of land. That which our fathers did not do we must do for ourselves and for those who are to come after us.

He wanted a large sum to be accumulated first—ten million pounds before operations started. The capital was to be conserved and only the interest used, except under special conditions which required a plebiscite of the people. It was to be devoted solely to the purchase of land and the Fund was to be "for ever autonomous." After 13 years his project was approved officially though it was not till 1901 that the J.N.F. was actually incorporated. At the same Congress he reverted to his proposal for a University and it was decided to appoint a committee to study the matter.

In his last year at Heidelberg he was happier, for he saw the movement grow, and especially the young students around him gave him cheer. Like Weizmann, though busy with his scientific activities (he wrote prolifically), he pursued his Zionist work. He said once: "When I devote myself to Zionism, my profession calls me, and when I devote my time to science, Zionism calls me." On Lag Ba'omer he died from pneumonia in Cologne, after attending a Zionist consultation there.

At his graveside the Rabbi of Cologne said: "You died a lone figure in the battle for your people but your life was not ended in a strange land, for your native land was Science, your native soil was the Idea."

First in Golden Book: Now we are bringing him home, from the ancient cemetery at Cologne, where many great Jews rest in eternal peace; to Jerusalem, on Mount Herzl, the land of his zealous ideal where he dreamed a great moral and spiritual force would emerge, derived from the revival of Israel. His words, and moreover, the record of his life, deserve to be studied by this generation. The first entry in the first volume of the Golden Book is that of Professor Hermann Schapira.

JPA-JNF NEWS

CAMPAIGN LEADERS MEET EMBASSY OFFICERS



J.P.A. honorary officers in districts and trades, as well as the entire Administrative Committee, were present this week at Grosvenor House, at an informal reception to meet the Israel Ambassador and his colleagues of the Embassy on the occasion of the forthcoming opening of the 1954 J.P.A. Campaign.

Partnership: The meeting, said Sir Simon Marks, president of the J.P.A., was to cement that partnership between the workers in England and those here to represent the State of Israel. He added many words of praise for the Ambassador and the officers who considered it their prime duty to maintain close contact with the Anglo-Jewish community and to stand shoulder to shoulder with the National Appeal in that all-important task of procuring foreign currency for the young State.

"During my recent visit to Israel," he went on, "I saw that the people had discovered the secret of working and building as if money were not the main factor—as indeed it is not. It is the spirit which counts above all else."

The Weizmann Institute of Science—his and Israel Sieff's gift to the late President—vividly testified to this. It had been founded in 1934 upon a desert expanse. Today it represented one of the world's major institutions of science.

On behalf of all gathered there, he wished retiring Prime Minister Ben-Gurion well on his decision to leave for the Negev. "He told me," Sir Simon revealed, "that he thought the time had come when he must demonstrate that no man is indispensable." He really did hope that the desert would become a magnet for other chalutzim. The president concluded amidst cheers: "We send

a word of encouragement to our friend Sharett on his assuming a most formidable task."

The Ambassador spoke of his pleasure at seeing assembled before him both the young and the veterans in their work. He assured them all that they at the Embassy did not follow the activities of the J.P.A. as outsiders, but as partners in a common cause. He went on to describe the functions of his various colleagues at the Embassy, introducing them individually. "Ours is the dual obligation of not losing contact with our own country and of strengthening our association with you," he declared.

Voicing his admiration at the way year after year, J.P.A. workers measured up to their responsibilities, Mr. Gershon Avner, Counsellor, said that the Israel Embassy and, indeed, Israel itself, knew the work was not easy. "But we wish to help you to our utmost to make this Appeal as successful as before," he promised; and he paid a tribute to the wives of his colleagues too, who played an essential role with their husbands in bringing Israel close to the country-wide community of Anglo-Jewry.

Z.F. President's Praise: The proceedings were rounded-off by the president of the Zionist Federation, Mr. Barnett Janner, M.P. He believed the reputation of the Israel Embassy was second to none among the foreign Missions in London. He thanked Mr. Elath for the part he had played in improving Anglo-Israel relations and he paid an especial tribute to Sir Simon Marks for the moral and material contribution he was making towards the well-being of the ideal of Jewish independence now on the point of fruition.

EDGWARE RECEIVES NACHLAH DEEDS

A large gathering of friends and supporters of the Edgware J.N.F. Commission watched Mr. Sigmund Gestetner present the community's Nachlah Deeds to their chairman, Mr. C. Stein, at the Rose Harris Hall last week. Among those present were the Mayor and Mayoress of Hendon, Cllr. and Mrs. A. V. Sully.

The president of the Jewish National Fund compared the growth of Edgware, from the rural district he had known in his boyhood to today's growing suburb, with the development of Israel, harder to attain but even more spectacular in achievement. Chevel Simon Marks, in which Nachlat Edgware was incorporated, had already progressed enormously in the two years since its foundation.

"This Commission is proud to be associated in this tribute with so outstanding a Zionist as Sir Simon Marks," declared Mr. Stein. He assured the J.N.F. leader that with the completion of this project, his Commission would be inspired to even greater endeavours.

The Deeds are to be lodged at regular intervals within the precincts of Edgware District Synagogue and the Yeshurun Synagogue. This was revealed by the Rev. Saul Amias.

There was then outlined the basis of the new land reclamation scheme to be undertaken by the fund in association with the 'Anglo-Jewish' kibbutzim. This was done by Mr. Lewis Harris who emphasised the importance of peaceful cultivation of land on the borders in preference to the erection of army barracks at various points of the frontier.

Thanks to the guests were expressed by Mr. A. B. Olivestone.



Mr. Stein receives the Deeds.

JPA-JNF NEWS

"FAITHFUL CITY" SHOWN IN LEEDS

The Kingsway Cinema was filled to capacity when the Combined J.N.F. Fellowships, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Leslie Goldstone, sponsored the showing of the film "Faithful City," together with a programme of selected shorts.

As a result of the combined efforts of the J.N.F. Fellowship, the J.N.F. Jubilee Fellowship, the J.N.F. Weizmann Fellowship and the J.N.F. Fourth Fellowship, well over £350 is expected to be raised for the J.N.F. Charitable Trust.

The film show Committee is indebted to Mr. H. C. Shaffner for voluntarily providing the booking facilities, to the proprietor and staff of the Kingsway Cinema for their co-operation and assistance.

DALSTON

The Dalston J.N.F. Commission and Zionist Society presented "Let's Be Happy," a Yiddish musical at the Grand Palais, Commercial Road. The committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. E. Chanan, of the J.N.F., and the Rev. A. Gotloib of the Zionist Society, Mr. J. Wengrow and J. Lotsky, joint honorary treasurers, Mrs. G. Wiseman, hon. secretary, must be commended for their fund-raising efforts in a community with financially limited opportunities. Mr. G. W. Gold, the guest speaker, made a successful appeal. The sum of £130 was raised for the J.N.F. Charitable Trust.

TREES IN ERETZ ISRAEL

London

25 trees in the names of Dr. and Mrs. M. Fisher on the occasion of their Silver Wedding by the Executive of the Mizrahi Women's Organisation. 10th October.

20 trees in the name of David Werner Senator by Kurt Battsek in loving memory of a lifelong friendship.

Liverpool

15 trees in the names of Gita Miriam Woolfson and Benjamin Norman Mandelson on the occasion of their Birth by Mrs. R. Hoppen.

Westcliff

150 saplings by Mr. H. Barnett. 29th November.

150 saplings by Mr. H. I. Elman. 29th November.

100 saplings by Mrs. H. I. Elman. 29th November.

HENDON

Within four weeks of their successful theatre show, "The Sleeping Prince," the Hendon J.N.F. Commission held their annual Chanukah dance at the Brent Bridge Hotel.

This fine effort involved the collection of several hundred gifts for the attractive tombola. Members and friends had a fine evening's entertainment and the J.N.F. Charitable Trust benefitted appreciably.

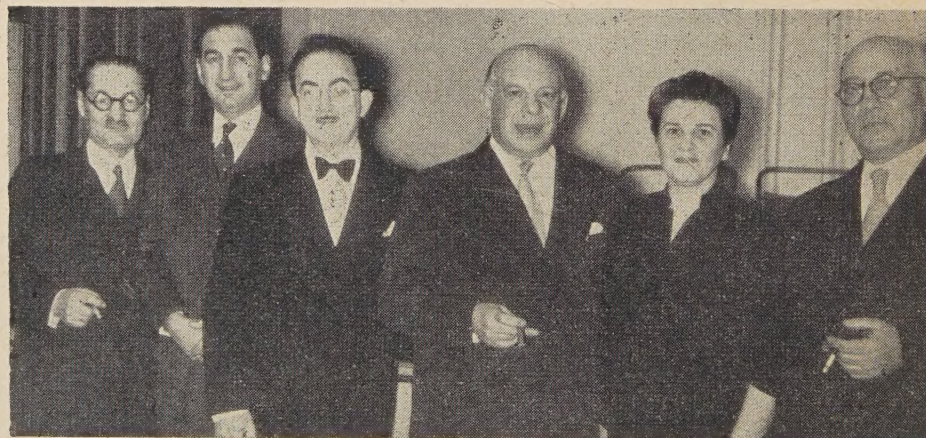
The committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. I. J. Pomson, is now looking forward to booking a play in the first quarter of the new year.

WEST LONDON J.P.A. COMMITTEE

Hammersmith Synagogue Hall was the scene last week of a reception in which a representative gathering of West London Jewry was formally asked to wind up the 1953 J.P.A. campaign. Mr. Julius Silman presided. The committee includes sub-sections from Chelsea, Hammersmith and Shepherds Bush, and produced a gross result during the year of £8,000 for the Joint Palestine Appeal. The net target had been £7,500.

The function was interspersed with musical entertainment kindly provided free by those well-known artistes Sidney Crooke, Sidney Lederman and Hanna Lowen.

In addition, there were films and a recitation by Mr. Michael Laurie, vice-chairman. Both the chairman and Mr. Gershon Silver spoke at this function, which was catered by the Hammersmith Synagogue Ladies' Guild.



Group photograph at West London reception (left to right): Messrs. G. Bischoff, J. Silman, S. Lederman, M. Laurie, Miss Hanna Lowen and W. Adler.

INSCRIBED IN THE GOLDEN BOOK

London

In memory of our dear beloved daughter, sister and aunt, Stella Wolfson who died on May 8th, 1953, at the age of 23, by her mother, brother, sister-in-law and nephew, Bessie, Cyril, Sadie and Geoffrey Alan.

Leeds

Molly Ann Barnett and Joseph Joshua Smith on the occasion of their Marriage by the parents of the Bride. 13th December.

Liverpool

Mr. and Mrs. G. Ison, on the occasion of their Golden Wedding by Mr. and Mrs. S. Ison. 8th November.

Manchester

Jaques Winston Sueke on the occasion of his Barmitzvah by his parents. 22nd November.

Southport

Pesach Peter Graham Woolf on the occasion of his Birth by his grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Kiva Woolf. 9th May.

Southend and District

Mrs. Lily Narod by the Southend and District Women's Zionist Society, in grateful appreciation of her splendid work as its chairman from 1948-1953. 2nd December.

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JPA - JNF NEWS

MANCHESTER FESTIVAL OF YOUTH

The newly-formed Manchester Zionist Youth Council held a Festival of Youth on the occasion of Chanukah last week. More than 100 people participated, while among the 500 guests were Alderman Dr. J. Shlosberg, J.P., Mayor of Salford. Organiser of the festival was Mrs. Naomi Coleman, chairman of the Youth Coun-

cil. She was assisted by Mr. Michael Abels, deputy youth officer.

The richly-varied programme included Hebrew songs by the youth choir, conducted by Amatsya Englesberg, and play pageants and dance sequences by all the young peoples' groups in the locality. The J.N.F. was well represented.



Kindling Chanukah lights at the Manchester Festival of Youth.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, 26th December

SOUTH - WEST ESSEX J.N.F. COMMISSION Annual Dinner and Ball. 6 p.m. Amhurst Park Hall, N.16. Dancing to Maurice Sinclair and His Orchestra. Tickets 2 gns. from Miss S. Slowe, 10 Westmoreland Road, E.17. LEYTON 2594.

Wednesday, 30th December

EAST LONDON J.N.F. COMMISSION. Grand Performance, Yiddish Play (in aid of the J.N.F. Charitable Trust), Grand Palais, Commercial Road, E.1, at 7.30 p.m. Tickets available from Rev. J. Weisz, 23 Milward Street, E.1.

Sunday, 10th January, 1954

STAMFORD HILL & DISTRICT J.N.F. COMMISSION, Annual Dinner and Ball at the Savoy Hotel, W.C.2 (under Kashrus supervision). Dancing to Claude Cavolotti and Orchestra. 7 p.m. to midnight. Tickets: £2 5s. 0d. available from Mrs. L. Kaye, MUSEUM 6111.

Thursday, 21st January, 1954

GOLDERS GREEN J.N.F. COMMISSION. Dance at Brent Bridge Hotel, N.W.4 Dancing to Johnny Franks and Orchestra. Tombola. Tickets: 15s. 6d. (inclusive of refreshments), obtainable from A. Blake, 65 Southampton Row, W.C.1. MUS. 6111. 8 p.m.

Saturday, 23rd January, 1954

KENWOOD & HIGHGATE VILLAGE J.N.F. COMMISSION, First Debutante Ball, Savoy Hotel, London. 6.30 p.m. Nat Temple and his Orchestra. For tickets and presentation please write to Mr. H. C. Newgas, Madison Lodge, Compton Avenue, N.6. Closing date for application for presentation, December 31st, 1953. Tickets: £2 12s. 6d.

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Machar, 57 Eton Avenue	...	2	14	7
Mrs. Simpson, 88 Fitzjohn Avenue	...	2	9	0
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Mr. Tobin, 42 Tenison Road	...	2	0	0
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Mr. H. Sless, 7 Dunedin, Connaught Ave.	...	4	6	0
Mr. I. J. Birkhahn, 50 McCurtain Street	...	4	5	0
Dr. L. Scher, "Annville," Western Road	...	3	0	0
Mr. A. Elyan, 95 Balincurragh Estate, Douglas Road	...	3	0	0
Mr. F. Sless, 7 Dunedin, Connaught Ave.	...	3	0	0
Mr. E. Rick, Beechwood Park, Ballinlugh Road	...	2	18	9
Mr. M. Cohen, "Roseleigh," Marble Hall Gardens	...	2	12	6
Mr. J. Levingstone, "Derrynane," Wilton	...	2	2	0
Mr. M. Elyan, "Croata," Glasheen Road	...	2	0	0
Mrs. F. Goldwater, 1 Maneva Terrace	...	2	0	0
Mr. J. Epstein, "Carrighdoun," Mardyke	...	2	0	0
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Mr. Friedman, High Street	...	3	17	6
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Dr. S. Lidiker, 9 Highway Road	...	3	6	0
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